

IC STAFF  
Routing Slip

TO:	ACTION	COORD	INFO
EO/ICS			
D/ICS			
DD/ICS			
DD/RE			
EA-D/ICS			
SA-D/ICS			
SA-D/ICS-EP			
REO			
COMIREX			
SIGINT			
HUMINT			
MASINT			
IPC			
PBO	X		
PPO			
CCISCMO			
IHC			
RDCO			
LL	X		
SECRETARIAT			
ADMIN			
REGISTRY			
SUSPENSE: 16 Sept Date			
REMARKS: LL & PBO Please work with OCA in determining & preparing an appropriate response.			

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

**ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS	X			
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt		X		
13	D/OCA	X			
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	D/Ex Staff				
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		_____			
		Date			

Remarks

STAT

*[Signature]* Executive Secretary

12 Aug 88  
Date

**3637** (10-81)

WALLY HERGER

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

2014年10月10日

WASHINGTON OFFICE

1108 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-3076

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REDDING, CA 96001  
(916) 246-5172

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YUBA CITY CA 95991  
(916) 673-7182



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
August 10, 1988

SUBCOMM . . . .

2-5R

DOMESTIC MARKET  
CONSUMER RESEARCH AND  
NUTRITION

COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE AND

SUBCOMM.

COAST GUARD AND  
NAVIGATION

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
OCEANOGRAPHY

Judge William Webster  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

STAT

Dear Judge Webster:

I understand that the Air Force is planning to withdraw the entire SR-71 detachment from Kadena Air Base, Japan by October 1, 1988. In fact, I have been informed that one of the planes will be removed from the base on August 11. I am writing to express my dismay at these actions.

The removal of these assets is taking place at a time when the United States is increasingly vulnerable to unrest in a strategic region of the world. As you know, the potential for aggression by North Korea against their neighbors to the South during the 1988 Summer Olympics has been much discussed. The growing crisis in the Philippines must also be of concern. Additionally, recent events in the Middle East should convince us of the need to maintain a close eye on events in that area.

Unfortunately, the decision to eliminate the SR-71 at Kadena leaves the U.S. without adequate primary and back-up coverage in the event that any of these regions become the focus of conflict. It will be difficult for the U.S. to maintain surveillance over these sensitive areas unless the British Government grants permission for the SR-71 to be tasked from Mildenhall Air Base. However, such a scenario seems unlikely barring extreme diplomatic maneuvering on the part of the U.S.

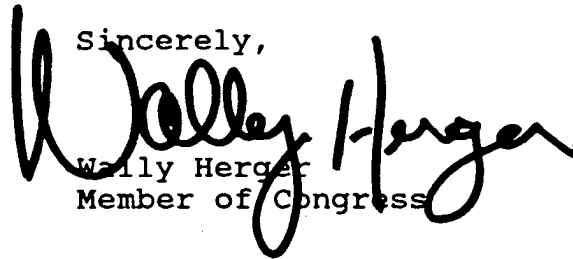
Thus at a time when we continue to face crises, the Air Force appears to be throwing away a number of options in the security, diplomatic, and political arenas. A large number of my colleagues agree with me on this point, and recently joined me in a letter that was sent to President Reagan. I have enclosed a copy for your review.

Judge William Webster  
Page 2  
August 10, 1988

The next month will be critical if we are to rescue the SR-71 program. It would be disastrous for our intelligence community if the Air Force were to succeed at eliminating the plane before the Congress and the White House concur. I would respectfully urge that you personally ask the President to intervene in this matter and support this critical program.

Again, I appreciate your ongoing support for the SR-71.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wally Herger". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "W" and a long, sweeping "H".

Wally Herger  
Member of Congress

WALLY HERGER  
20 DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 28, 1988

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You have been a strong supporter of the SR-71 strategic reconnaissance program for several years. The two letters that you wrote in support of the program during the 1987 fiscal year helped to gain Congressional approval of needed improvements and upgrades to the platform. As a result, the SR-71 remains not only the fastest and highest flying aircraft in the world, but an invaluable tool for our intelligence community.

For these reasons, both Secretary of State George Shultz and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency William Webster have written letters within the past two months to Secretary Carlucci to express their dismay over Department of Defense plans to eliminate the program by the end of the 1989 fiscal year. Furthermore, in a recent classified briefing to Congress, the Air Force emphatically defended the program and re-emphasized its importance in light of recent events in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The SR-71 is uniquely qualified to meet these and other assignments. It provides high-quality, wide area synoptic coverage using a variety of sensors, including radar, photo, and ELINT. Its ability to alter its flight-path or return for a second or third pass over the same area, as well as its proficiency in acquiring data in inclement weather or on short notice all constitute significant advantages over overhead systems. As Secretary of State Shultz pointed out in his letter, "... the SR-71 generally complements (rather than duplicates) satellite coverage."

Additionally, as the Pentagon itself has pointed out on a number of occasions, our satellite force is becoming increasingly vulnerable to Soviet threats, including both conventional and advanced anti-satellite measures. An active SR-71 program guards against the day that a part or all of our overhead imagery might not be fully operable.

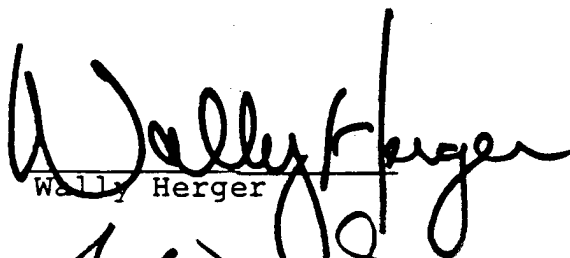
The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
Page 2  
July 28, 1988

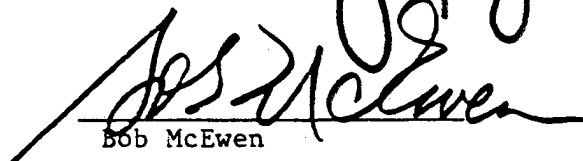
Given this information, we find it difficult to understand the rationale behind the D.O.D.'s decision to eliminate the program. While we certainly sympathize with the severe budgetary constraints that have been imposed by the recent budget-summit agreement, we do not believe that the SR-71 can be sacrificed until an effective replacement is designed. If the current budget environment remains unchanged, it is doubtful that we could afford a follow-on to the aircraft. Intelligence experts inform us that even given a more favorable budget situation, such a system is at least several years from completion. We also believe it is important to recognize that shutting down the SR-71 program could cost between \$1 billion and \$2 billion, equal to the cost of running the program at current levels for five to ten years. This does not include the approximately \$3.8 billion that we have invested in equipment currently used by the program, including supplies in the warehouse, sensors, test equipment, and the aircraft themselves. (Another \$5.4 billion is invested in equipment that is not in use at this time).

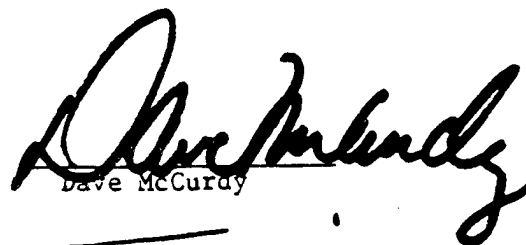
Furthermore, not only has the cost of the program been reduced by 50% during the past two-years, but we believe that the value of the program can not be measured solely in terms of dollar amounts. To shelve the SR-71 would be to severely degrade our critical intelligence capabilities. National security dictates that the program be retained.

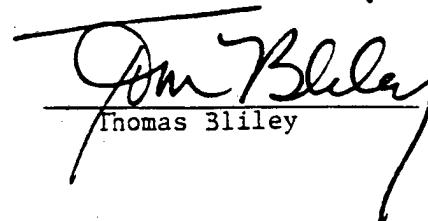
If the program is to be saved at this time, we believe that Presidential intervention will be required. We would hope that you would personally review the pertinent data, and support the position taken by Mr. Shultz and Judge Webster backing the program. We appreciate your time and effort in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Wally Herger

  
Bob McEwen

  
Dave McCurdy

  
Thomas Bliley

July 28, 1988

Bob Stump

Bob Stump

Alton Gallegly

Alton Gallegly

Rick Boucher

Rick Boucher

Robert Dornan

Robert Dornan

George "Buddy" Darden

George "Buddy" Darden

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey

Carlos Moorhead

Carlos Moorhead

George E. Brown

George E. Brown

Robert T. Matsui

Robert T. Matsui

Robert Badham

Robert Badham

Donald "Buz" Lukens

Donald "Buz" Lukens

David Dreier

David Dreier

Jerry Lewis

Jerry Lewis

Michael Bilirakis

Michael Bilirakis

John Paul Hammerschmidt

John Paul Hammerschmidt

Charles Wilson

Charles Wilson

Robert A. Roe

Robert A. Roe

Gerald Solomon

Gerald Solomon

James Courter

James Courter

Beverly Byron

Beverly Byron

The Honorable Ronald Reagan

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July 28, 1988



Bill Thomas



Clyde C. Holloway



Robert Walker



Richard Arney



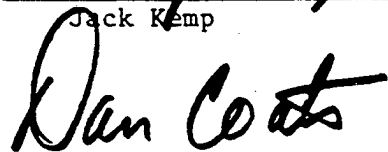
Stan Parris



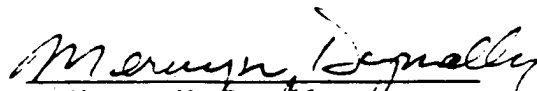
W.G. "Bill" Hefner



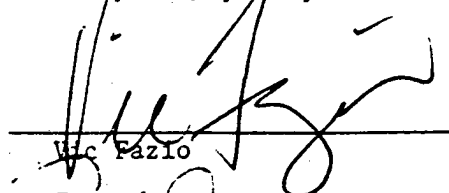
Jack Kemp



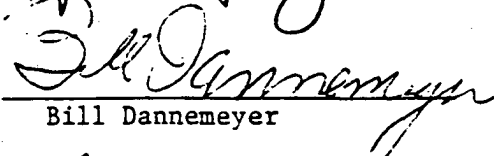
Dan Coats



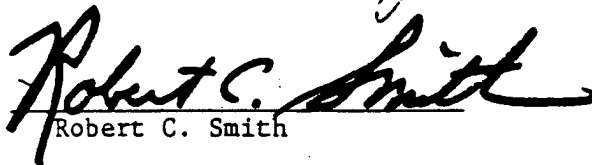
Mervyn M. Dymally



Vic Fazio



Bill Dannemeyer



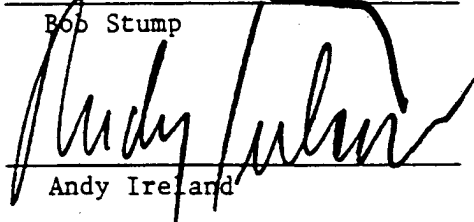
Robert C. Smith



Norman D. Shumway



Bob Stump



Andy Ireland



Robert Davis